UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/687
4 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you formally the communiqué of the Fifth Regional Summit on the Burundi conflict, which met at Dar es Salaam on 4 September 1997.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daudi N. MWAKAWAGO
Ambassador

97-23073 (E) 040997

/...

ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the Fifth Regional Summit on the Burundi conflict

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda and Laurent-Desire Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Prime Minister Melea Zenawi of Ethiopia; and Brigadier General Godfrey Miyanda, Vice President, representing President Frederick Chiluba of the Republic of Zambia met on 3 and 4 September 1997 at Dar es Salaam and deliberated on the conflict in Burundi.

2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the Foreign Minister of Kenya, Mr. S. Kalonzo Musyoka, representing President Daniel T. arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya, the Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

3. The Regional Summit received a comprehensive report from the Facilitator of the Peace Process, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, on his efforts to facilitate a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Burundi, including his recent endeavours to convene on 25 August 1997 at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, a meeting of all parties to the conflict.

4. The Regional Summit expressed its regret that, in spite of all these efforts, there had been no progress in the negotiation process. It expressed, in particular, its disappointment over the refusal of the Government of Burundi to take part in the first session of all-party negotiations at Arusha.

5. The Regional Summit recalled the previous decisions taken at the First to Fourth Regional Summits. The Regional Summit reaffirmed that the objective of the negotiations was to achieve a new dispensation based on the principles of democracy and security for all. In that respect, it was expected that the negotiating parties would come up with transitional mechanisms towards the attainment of that ultimate objective.

6. The Regional Summit decided to maintain the existing sanctions and to ensure their scrupulous application. In that regard, the Regional Summit decided to create a special secretariat comprising representatives of all the participating countries, working under the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee, to monitor compliance by all the participating countries.

7. The Regional Summit was informed of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's position to step aside as Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process. The Regional Summit was firmly of the view that the continued role of Mwalimu Nyerere was crucial for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Burundi. It reaffirmed its confidence in the Facilitator and urged him to continue.

8. The Regional Summit also discussed the issue of the venue of the all-party talks. It took note of the position of the President of the United Republic of

Tanzania not to host the talks. The leaders nonetheless insisted that the next round of talks be held at Arusha. The Regional Summit urged all the parties, including the Government of Burundi, to take part in the talks, which would be convened by the Facilitator, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. In order to create a propitious climate for the talks, the Regional Summit called upon the Government of Burundi to halt the trials it was currently conducting until such time as a negotiated solution was in place to deal with such crimes; to release unconditionally the Speaker of the National Assembly, Leonce Ngendakumana, former President Sylivestre Ntibantunganya and former President Jean Baptiste Bagaza to travel freely and participate in the talks; and, to disband immediately the regroupment camps.

9. The Regional Summit reaffirmed its determination and commitment to promote a negotiated settlement in Burundi and to back fully the efforts of the Facilitator in that direction. The Regional Summit further declared its preparedness to adopt additional measures to deal with any obstruction to the negotiation process.

10. The Regional Summit appealed to all OAU member States, the United Nations and the rest of the international community to support actively the peace process in Burundi.

11. The Regional Summit requested President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda to convey to the Government of Burundi the spirit and content of the Summit.

12. The Fifth Regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Benjamin William Mkapa for once again hosting the Regional Summit on the Burundi conflict and to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm reception and hospitality extended to all delegations.